

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7834

UNCLAS CARACAS 2273

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, VE

SUBJECT: VENEZUELAN CONGRESS CONVENES

REF: CARACAS 1878

1. ON SUNDAY MARCH 2 THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS CONVENED ITS 1975 ORDINARY SESSION AND ELECTED ITS OFFICERS FOR THE COMING YEAR. RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS, WITHOUT OPPOSITION, WAS AD SENATOR GONZALO BARRIOS. ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES WAS COPEI DEPUTY OSWALDO ALVAREZ PAZ (SEE REFETEL). THE MEP, URD, MIR, PCV AND PEREZJIMENISTA DEPUTIES ABSTAINED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE VOTING FOR ALVAREZ, EXPLAINING THAT THEY WERE IN DISAGREEMENT AS TO THE WAY AD AND COPEI HAS AGREED TO "DIVIDE UP CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP BETWEEN THEM."

2. ON TAKING OFFICE DR. BARRIOS DECLARED THAT "ANY MISTAKE OF THE PARLIAMENT OR OF THE GOVERNMENT COULD BRING US TO A FAILURE OF UNPRECEDENTIAL DIMENSIONS." SAID ALVAREZ, "I BELONG TO A GENERATION WHICH IS NOT DISPOSED TO AWAIT WITH ARMS FOLDED THE VERDICT OF HISTORY." WHEN FORMALLY NOTIFIED OF THE ELECTION OF THE NEW OFFICERS OF CONGRESS PRESIDENT PEREZ SAID, "I AM GOING TO ALGIERS IN THE SURENESS AND CONFIDENCE THAT UPON MY RETURN, AT MY TRANSCENDENTAL APPEARANCE BEFORE THE CONGRESS OF THE

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REPUBLIC, WHEN I PRESENT MY FIRST MESSAGE, IT WILL SEAL OUR

COMMITMENT CONCERNING THE FUNDAMENTAL AFFAIRS OF THE COUNTRY"
(I.E., NATIONALIZATION OF THE PETROLEUM INDUSTRY).
MCCLINTOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
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